



www.lpct.org

# The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

December 2006

## Big Government Attracts Big Money

*By Marc Guttman, MD*

Regarding the unfair campaign-finance reform bill that has passed the Connecticut legislature, it is not the right to contribute to campaigns that needs reform, but rather the practices of our representatives who sell favorable legislation to cronies, highest bidders and appetizing voting blocks. Our government, income and liberties are not saleable items. The Republicans and Democrats have been the gatekeepers of our government and have been selling out for years.

Our representatives are voted back into office 95 percent of the time, despite their overstepping of legal restraints. The courts, despite knowledge that we are a constitutional republic designed to protect the individual from the tyranny of the majority, the wealthy and the unified, have allowed representatives to do so through legislation. It is because our government has extended its power beyond constitutional limits that special interests are attracted to its power and big spending. Our government was accepted to protect citizens from force and fraud, not to initiate force against its citizens.

A publicly financed campaign system is not fair. It steals from citizens to promote other citizens and their ideas. It would force many to promote Democrat and Republican agendas, for example, that they believe are deleterious, which they are. These parties already pay themselves billions of our money. Their presidential candidates receive millions of taxpayer dollars. The several Democratic presidential candidates in 2004

received hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars until the party's nomination was accepted at the Democratic National Convention, which cost taxpayers \$40 million, same as the Republican National Convention.

Connecticut's law would also make it near impossible for independent and third party candidates to compete with the financed, older parties' candidates, as the requirements to receive public funds are not only different for them, but difficult to achieve. Moreover, philosophically principled candidates like Libertarian candidates, who generally do not accept public dollars to promote themselves or even to advance liberty, would find it even harder to compete in a publicly-financed system.

In addition to ballot-access and closed-debates impediments, campaign finance reform such as this is yet another obstacle to Connecticut's third-party and independent campaigns competing in a system already rigged to maintain the

incumbent duopoly.

If you prefer to get big money and the corruption it breeds, out of Connecticut politics, vote for Libertarian candidates who understand the appropriate functions and legal limitations of government, who do not sell government power and citizens' rights to those willing to take it. What special interest, other than non-aggression and liberty, is going to buy that?

*Marc Guttman is the Vice Chairman of the State Central committee and the editor of The Connecticut Libertarian.*



*Marc Guttman, MD*

## Libertarian Party Joins ACLU Lawsuit

*By Andy Rule*

On December 7, 2005, the Connecticut Legislature passed a campaign finance law ostensibly to make an even playing field for political candidates for the state offices, i.e. legislature, Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General. It does not pertain to municipal offices or federal offices.

This unfortunate law does anything but what it claims to do. It would be better called the Incumbent Protection Act, for what it would do is fund the campaigns of incumbent politicians and penalize up and coming political opponents. What it does is provide

*See Lawsuit on page 2*

## Lawsuit *continued from page 1*

funding from public coffers to political campaigns of parties that are already established. It prohibits state contractors and lobbyists and their immediate family members from contributing to political campaigns or committees. Nor are they allowed to solicit funding for such campaigns that might influence any legislative or executive action. This may sound good on the surface, but what if you, as a libertarian, were trying to influence the government in some way to cease action of some sort? By this law, if you received \$2,000 in a given year to help in this effort, you would be legally classified as a lobbyist and the law would apply. This definitely affects advocacy organizations, among others.

Although libertarians are against any public funding of campaigns, this law is especially egregious because it places a high bar for minor parties. They have to have had 10% of the vote in the previous election in order to just begin to qualify for funds, and only a fraction of that to boot. Moreover, those who do not participate in the system, whether of volition or regulation, can trigger more funding for his opponent who does participate. This happens by a non-participating candidate raising funds up to 90% of his participating opponent, thus triggering an additional 25% funding from the state to the participating opponent.

For example, if James Madison is our candidate for Governor (there is a Libertarian Party of Connecticut member named James Madison) raises \$90 and his opponent, Jodi Rell, who participates in the program and has obtained \$100 from the state, will now be eligible for \$125. And, if our noble James Madison raises \$115 to catch up to his opponent after this, Rell's grant goes up again to \$150, and so on. It gets worse. If there is a disgruntled person out there, who spends money putting up billboards around Connecticut, saying "Don't vote for Jodi Rell, it only encourages her" this will also be considered in the formula to increase Rell's grant.

Basically, what the government funding says is that if you have the gall to not participate in our system, or be a minor party or petitioning candidate, we will simply help your opponent get his word out and make sure he or she can out spend you to do it.

What to do? Well, on July 6, 2006 the Connecticut ACLU has filed suit against the state for these assaults on our freedom of speech and the Libertarian Party of Connecticut is a co-plaintiff. Other co-plaintiffs are the Green Party, Elizabeth Gallo (a lobbyist), Mike DeRosa (a candidate), among others. The law as it stands now is such that if any part is struck down, the court can not fix that part of it; that the bill becomes defunct. Contrary to libertarian principles, the Green Party and the ACLU are for "fair" public campaign financing. The Libertarian Party of Connecticut decided to be a party to this suit, because the suit does not seek to fix the legislation, but rather to strike it down.

*Andy Rule is Secretary of the State Central Committee.*

## MEETINGS

### State Central Committee - Tuesday, December 19, 2006

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

All members are welcome.

#### Agenda:

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Political Director's Report

Membership Report

Communications Report

Old Business

New Business:

Reinstatement of dues

Move PO Box to Yalesville

#### Directions:

From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (Rte 5 & 15 South), see below.

From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (Rte 5 & 15 South), see below.

From East: I-84 West to Exit 57 (Rte 5 & 15 South), see below.

From West: I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (Rte 5 & 15 South), see below.

Route 5 & 15 South: Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Highway) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.

## LPCT Forms Platform Committee

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut has formed a committee to develop its own Platform. Currently the state party has Bylaws but has never had an official platform.

Members of the committee are Bill Hamilton, Richard Loomis, and Carl Vassar. They will develop a proposed platform which will then be presented to members for approval at a special meeting. According to the Bylaws the platform must be approved plank by plank. Members will be notified in advance of the meeting.

If you have questions, comments, or information for the Platform Committee please email them to Carl Vassar at [LIB203@Yahoo.com](mailto:LIB203@Yahoo.com).

## UNCONSTITUTIONAL *The War on Our Civil Liberties*



Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Congress passed a series of legislations known as The Patriot Act, which is designed to assist law enforcement in preventing future terrorist attacks. Take an inside look at this controversial bill through the eyes of legal analysts and constitutional experts as they examine the possible dangers The Patriot Act poses to our civil liberties and individual freedoms.

Presented by  
The Libertarian Party of Connecticut  
at the New London Public Library  
63 Huntington Street  
New London, CT 06320  
Phone: 860-447-1411

**Tuesday January 9th, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.**

*Help amplify our voice by becoming a monthly pledger to the Libertarian Party of Connecticut:*  
**[lpct.org/DonateOnline.html](http://lpct.org/DonateOnline.html)**

*Please send commentaries and letters to the editor to The Connecticut Libertarian Editor at [tcl@lpct.org](mailto:tcl@lpct.org).*